

State Advisory Committee (SAC) For Children with Disabilities
Advising the NH Department of Education Per RSA 186-C:3-b
Minutes for the meeting of June 5, 2013
NH Department of Education
Room 15
4:30pm - 7:00 pm

In attendance: Carol Conforti - Adams, Mike Pinard, Candace Cole-McCrea, Kestrel Cole-McCrea, Renea Sparks, Maureen Tracey, Kerri-Lynn Kimner, Michelle Rosado, Sue Marcotte-Jenkins.

Guests: Santina Thibedeau

Agenda Item I: Welcome, Introductions, Approval of April and May minutes.

- Renea Sparks called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.
- A correction was made to the April minutes. There was not enough members present to vote on the minutes. It was agreed to table the April and May meeting minutes until the annual retreat.

Agenda Item II: Public Comment

- There was no public comment.

Agenda Item III: Subcommittee's meeting

- Thank you notes for participants of the May 1st SAC Legislative Awareness event: Thank you's were created and ready to write a brief note to each participant of the event. Maureen Tracey has prepared thank you notes for co-sponsors. Members wrote out notes to those who attended at the end of the meeting.

Agenda Item IV: Reports from subcommittees

- *Failure to Implement IEPs* subcommittee: Sue spoke for the group and it was decided to wait until September to meet.
- *Mental Health subcommittee*: committee will meet "adhoc" this summer.
- *Restraint and Seclusion subcommittee*: Check in with Bonnie to see if this committee will meet over the summer.

Agenda Item V: Bureau Update: Santina Thibedeau

- IDEA grants have gone out. There is a 5.2% reduction to school districts. A clarifying memo was sent to the districts explaining that the overall lump sum was reduced. Renea comments that the 5.2 budget cut will directly affect district staff cuts, so that services will be difficult to provide according to the students IEPs.
- The Bureau has taken on the new state assessment initiative, called “*Smarter Balance*”. Smarter balance is a computer adaptive test. Sixty Seven (67) schools in New Hampshire did a pilot test site. Sample test questions are available at the Smarter Balance website: <http://www.smarterbalanced.org/pilot-test/> . The Bureau will be creating an “accommodation manual”. Stakeholder groups will be invited to participate in going over what this manual might look like, based on what the input is for special education. NH special education students have a familiarity already, with a computerized test. The software is web based. At this point there is no purchase needed for the district as it is funded by a large federal grant for five (5) years. It was asked if a comparison will be done from the last assessment test. There will not be a comparison, as the common core will be measured by smarter balance. There is an overlap though, with NECAP/Smarter Balance, which has caused discussion among the districts, about all of the testing going on. The overlap is through 2015. Santina has a good presentation regarding the smarter balance assessment that she could share with SAC.
- OSEP has proposed new language around a *new Indicator 17* – a state systemic plan. Public comment is due in 2013.

Agenda Item VI: Legislative Update, SAC Liaison Updates, Correspondence, Announcements, Current Events, OSEP ~ SPP Public Comment.

- No correspondence this month.

Agenda Item VII: Old Business.

- There is no old business up for discussion.

Agenda Item VIII: New Business and emerging issues:

- May 1st SAC Legislative Awareness event discussion. Maureen Tracey spoke that the event was very exciting and wants to do it again. The DVD – *Who Cares About Kelsey*

will be available for purchase with the profits made to be used for future events. This could be discussed at the September retreat for next years' event.

- Candace suggested that we look at the same data that the legislative members review. Providing an information sheet at the next event would increase awareness. Maureen will hand out to SAC members the information packet given out at the May 1st SAC Legislative Awareness event. Making sure we understand what the legislative members understand, will be further discussed at the annual retreat. This could result in a new committee.
- The membership term for Maureen Tracey will expire in June and she would like to stay on SAC as a parent.
- There was discussion on SAC Chairman nominations and were tabled for voting purposes at the Annual Retreat in September. Candace Cole-McCrea made a motion to table the nominations until the morning of the retreat. Michelle Rosado seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All in favor ~ motion passed.
- Sue Marcotte Jenkins shared notes from the last ICC meeting.

Agenda Item IX: Public Comment

- There was no further public comment.

Agenda Item X: Adjournment

- Candace Cole-McCrea made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Michelle Rosado seconded the motion.
- The business meeting adjourned at 5:42pm; SAC members then wrote thank you notes for the May 1st event participation.